



Island County Planning and Community Development Department  
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## **ADDENDUM TO:**

### **Determination of Non-Significance and Incorporation by Reference of Existing Environmental Documents and Associated Environmental Checklist, April 25, 2014, addressing the Island County Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas Update**

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL AND PROPOSAL UPDATES**

The non-project proposal is to update the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCAs) provisions of the Island County Critical Areas Ordinance. This proposal involves the following components: (1) amendments to the Island County Comprehensive Plan concerning fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, (2) revisions to Island County Code necessary to protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; and, (3) changes to the County Environmental Policy related to categorical exemptions in critical areas.

The SEPA documents referenced above were issued April 25, 2014. Since that time the proposal intent and objectives have remained the same, and revisions to the proposal in response to public comments and legislative review have been made, including:

- Clarification on the relationship of the Ordinance to the Shoreline Master Program and to Forest Practices laws and rules,
- Additions and revisions to the definitions to improve application and interpretations of the ordinance, including, but not limited to streams, unregulated streams/ditches, maintenance and repair, mitigation, development, appurtenances, and consistency in definitions with related codes where appropriate,
- Clarification of general mitigation requirements,
- Clarification of process for unlisted exemptions versus listed exemptions,
- Clarifications of the exemption for existing and on-going agriculture including the ability to extend the 5-year period for idle land,
- Addressing permitted alterations of regulated streams associated with existing and on-going agriculture, including a programmatic permit with associated criteria,
- Addressing restrictions of throughput (oil and gas) pipelines similar to other County codes,
- Including an exemption for beaver and beaver dam removal,
- Revisions to permitted alteration criteria for single family homes and appurtenances and roads or utilities to be consistent with other County codes,
- Revisions to biological site assessment requirements, including contents when such reports should be prepared,

- Replacement of standard buffer and buffer averaging and buffer reduction provisions with a reduced standard buffer and no averaging or reduction provisions,
- Revisions to streamline general standards for habitat conservation areas adjacent to shorelines where other code sections address topics of concern,
- Clarifications of regulations to better match the intent of provisions, rearrangement of sections, and housekeeping corrections, such as use of consistent terminology, capitalization, cross-references, etc.

The proposal modifications clarify policies and regulations but maintain the County's intent to protect Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area (FWHCA) policies and consider the County's Best Available Science record.

Standard buffers are within the range of buffers recommended in the FWHCA Audit, Policy & Regulation Framework and the Best Available Science Report prepared for the County. As the buffers are proposed in the lower range, no administrative allowances for averaging or reductions are retained in the ordinance.

Allowances for permitted alterations include detailed criteria and a Type II permit. The programmatic, multi-year permit for permitted alterations of regulated streams associated with existing, ongoing agriculture includes criteria and a Biological Site Assessment for type "F" and type "S" streams.

Other amendments improve the applicability, consistency, and interpretation of the policies and code to protect FWHCAs.

This addendum provides additional information that does not substantially change the analysis of the proposal and impacts in the SEPA documents addressing the Island County Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas Update.